

THE GENUS *PSILOPUS* OF AUTHORS.

BY J. M. ALDRICH, MOSCOW, IDAHO.

In the Journal of the New York Entomological Society, X., 140, 1902, footnote, Mr. Coquillett called attention to a serious error of mine in my revision of what I called the *Psilopinæ* (Diptera, family Dolichopodidæ), by which I applied the new name *Gnamptopsilopus* to that portion of the old genus *Psilopus* containing the type species *platypterus*. But little investigation was needed to assure me that the criticism was just. This gave occasion for an overhauling of the literature of the group, and I undertook to ascertain what name ought to be used for *Psilopus*, which has been known for many years to be preoccupied. Some of the papers needed were hard to obtain, which delayed my task; but the main difficulty was the host of subsidiary questions, historical and critical, which rose up to confront me. I have never found anything like it in previous excursions into the realm of nomenclature. I doubt very much if any two zoologists could independently investigate the subject and come to the same conclusion; at least, there are a number of different names for which plausible arguments can be made. It would require a lengthy article to set forth all the queer questions connected with the case; I dare not attempt it, partly because it would not be worth the room, and partly because it would make subsequent change too easy. Instead of offering a choice of several names, I give my conclusions and a few notes, and particularly request that any future worker in the family who may wish to use other names for the genera will do as I have done—examine all the literature and then ponder the matter one year before making any change.

The two genera which I have formerly called *Gnamptopsilopus* and *Psilopus* should stand as follows:

AGONOSOMA.

Guérin-Méneville, Voyage . . . sur la Corvette; Zoologie, Tome II., partie 2me, p. 293. Paris, 1838 (title page gives date 1830).

On the plates the genus is called *Chrysosoma*.

Fallén, Dolichopodes, 23, 1823 (*Leptopus*, preoc.).

Meigen, Syst. Besch. Europ. Zw. Ins., IV., 35, 1824 (*Psilopus*, preoc.).

Zeller, Isis, 1842, 831 (changes *Psilopus* to *Sciapus*).

?Bigot, Annales Soc. Ent., France, 1859, 215 (*Margaritostylus*, in part).

Rondani, Dipt. Italicæ Prodrum, IV., 11, 1861 (changes *Psilopus* to *Psilopodius*).

- Schiner, Fauna Austriaca, Dipt., I., 180, 1862 (Psilopus, Meig.).
 Loew, Monogr, N. A. Diptera, II., 229, 1864 (id.).
 Aldrich, Kans. Univ. Quart., II., 47, 1893 (Gnamptopsilopus); Biologia
 Cent. Amer., Dipt., Suppl., 364, 1902, table of species (id.).
 Coquillett, Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc., X., 140, 1902, synonymy of
 Gnamptopsilopus.
 Bezzi, Zeitsch. f. Hym. u. Dipterologie, 1902, 191, adopts Sciapus.

PSILOPODINUS.

- Bigot, Annales Soc. Ent., France, 1890, 269.
 ?Bigot, Annales Soc. Ent., France, 1859, 215 (Oariostylus, Megistostylus,
 Mesoblepharius, Condyllostylus, Eurostomerus, Dasypsilopus, Het-
 eropsilopus, Aedipsilopus).
 ?Bigot, Annales Soc. Ent., France, 1890, 261-269 (Spathipsilopus,
 Eudasybus, Amblypsilopus, Tylochætus, Oariopherus).
 Aldrich, Kans. Univ. Quart., II., 47, 1893 (Psilopus in restricted sense).

NOTES.—I have seen all the literature cited except Zeller. The Smithsonian Institution kindly loaned me Guérin-Méneville.

The genera of Bigot, published in 1859 and 1890, are very badly conceived, and not properly genera at all, nor even subgenera. The descriptions of the type species hardly allow a definite opinion as to their location in the two genera here adopted, but I incline to place most of them in the second genus, with tegular cilia black. I chose to retain Bigot's name *Psilopodinus* for this genus for several reasons. First, *sipho* is mentioned among the types; second, it is not based on purely sexual characters (nor on much of anything else, I must admit); third, it is an advantage to retain this name from its resemblance to *Psilopus*, as the group includes Loew's larger section of *Psilopus*, and all that I referred to that genus in my revision.

The genus *Agonosoma* was supposed by its describer to differ from *Psilopus* by a more elongated third antennal joint and a somewhat different structure of the face and front. Two East Indian species were described, *fasciata* and *maculipennis*. In these the antennæ are yellow or ferruginous, with tip of third joint infuscated. The figure of the wing of the first shows the third vein parallel at the tip with the fourth. These two characters are quite distinctive, and I think we may safely assume that the species also have pale tegular cilia, and are entirely congeneric with *Psilopus platypterus*, which should, therefore, be referred to *Agonosoma*.

The effect on nomenclature is as follows: In Loew's Monograph of N. A. Dolichopodidæ, p. 244, his first section of *Psilopus*, comprising those with black cilia of the tegulæ, are now referred to *Psilopodinus*, excepting *Psilopus dimidiatus*; the other section, with pale cilia, are now referred to *Agonosoma*, together with *Ps. dimidiatus*. In Williston's Manual of N. A. Diptera, 1896, pp. 77, 78, substitute *Psilopodinus* for *Psilopus*, and *Agonosoma* for *Gnamptopsilopus*.